## **COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION 620 South "E" Street • San Bernardino, CA 92415-0153 (909) 386-8401 • Fax (909) 386-8460

November 27, 2006

CAL EPA UNIFIED PROGRAM 1001 "I" STREET, 5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR PO BOX 2815 SACRAMENTO, CA 95812

**SERVICES GROUP** PAT A. DENNEN Fire Chief County Fire Warden 3 0 2006 UNIFIED PROGRAM **CAL/EPA** 

**COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO** PUBLIC AND SUPPORT

ATTENTION: DON JOHNSON

## SUBJECT: SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY CUPA EVALUATION STATUS

Following is the response to your request for a quarterly status report on deficiencies identified during the November 2005 evaluation of the San Bernardino County CUPA. We continue to attempt to meet the Action Plan we submitted to you dated January 27, 2006.

Deficiency 1: Not meeting Inspection Frequencies:

Action Plan for Inspection Frequency:

1. The CUPA will perform quarterly measurement of inspection performance.

Status: We continue to measure the various indicators of inspection performance based on our own data parameters for the unit, and with each individual performance evaluation. Additionally, based on the annual Summary report of 2006, we have set a minimum inspection quota for our inspectors for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. The results of that inspection requirement should be apparent with the summary report of September 2007.

2. The CUPA is scheduled to fill three (3) Hazardous Materials positions in fiscal year 05-06 in March.

Status: In July of 2006, the 2 inspectors hired in March were released to begin independent inspections. One of those inspectors recently completed training requirements for his REHS, which took him out of the field for 3 days per week. In October of 2006, one of our experienced inspectors transferred to the UST program, leaving field services one inspector short, but filling an existing vacancy in the UST program. In November 2006, we hired two inspectors who will begin training at the end of the month. Our current plan is to hire an additional 2 field services inspectors in February or March of 2007. It is anticipated that one current field services inspector will transfer to the emergency response unit at that time.

3. The CUPA is formulating fee increases to cover the cost of 4 additional Hazardous Materials Specialist positions in 06 07. Done.

Services Group

JOSIE GONZALES . . . . . . . . . Fifth District

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4. The CUPA will continue pursuit of risk-based inspection strategy so that the facilities that present the most risk and complexity stay within the 3-year cycle even when they can't meet the inspection frequency for all sites.

<u>Status:</u> Meetings were held in October with each district inspector team to establish their priorities for the rest of the current fiscal year. A data status report is being developed at this time to meet your request for statistical updates. This will be available for the next report.

5. The CUPA will continue to improve capture, coding, and tracking of inspections so the reported data includes all inspections performed.

Status: This continues to be our ongoing process.

Deficiency 2: Not fully regulating Agricultural Handlers.

Action plan for Agricultural Handlers:

Once the additional 05\_06 staff is hired and have completed the initial training that allows them to perform unaccompanied field activity (probably not until fiscal year 06\_07), the CUPA will assign a project team to perform specified tasks to identify agricultural facilities requiring permits and incorporate into guidance documents and inspection plans.

Status: The agricultural handler task team has identified over 450 facilities. We believe that a great majority of them are no longer operating. In the meantime, they have contacted the Ag Commissioner, the Dairy Council and several cities in an effort to identify those facilities that no longer exist due to development. Additionally, Envision forms have been generated to assist all field staff in expediting this project, and it is anticipated that the remaining sites can be inspected by the end of the 3-year evaluation period.

Deficiency 3: Not consistently publishing an initial public notice of Risk Management Plans. Corrected: Modified procedures enclosed as requested.

If you need any other information or have any questions, please contact me or Marilyn Kraft or Susan Williams at (909) 386-8401.

B. DOUGLAS SNYDER, ASSISTANT FIRE MARSHAL

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION

**ENCLOSURES:** 

BDS:sw

cc: Jennifer Lorenzo (Via e-mail)
Pat Dennen, Fire Chief
Peter Brierty, Assistant Fire Chief